



February 12, 2015

Humberto L. Garcia Jr., Director
Ecosystems Protection Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Dear Mr. Garcia;

I received your letter dated 2/6/2015 pertaining to our January 9th, 2015, conference call addressing the effect of the recent nutrient standards rule changes on nondegradation review of the portion of the Clark Fork River to which the numeric nutrient standards in ARM 16.30.637 apply. I wanted to confirm, via this letter, that you are correct that, for that portion of the Clark Fork River, DEQ would evaluate whether any proposed activity would result in nonsignificant changes in water quality of a high quality water consistent with 75-5-301(5)(c), MCA. Further, we would consider the Board of Environmental Review's previous decision to apply the harmful nonsignificance threshold for streams to which the base numeric nutrient standards in Circular DEQ 12A apply. Finally, DEQ will institute the process to clarify the nonsignificance thresholds applicable to the Clark Fork River nutrient criteria during our triennial review this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Mathieus", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

George Mathieus, Administrator
Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division

Cc: Erin Perkins, Region VIII EPA
Tina Laidlaw, Region VIII EPA